



Application Guidelines



TO REQUEST A LARGE-PRINT OR ALTERNATE FORMAT application, contact Kristin Han Burgoyne at 406-444-6449 or e-mail: khan@mt.gov.

Program Description

In order to foster environments where the innovation and creativity of artists are valued and celebrated, this program rewards Montana artists who have demonstrated:

- Extraordinary innovation in their work and artwork
- Outstanding originality and dedication in their creative pursuits
- A marked capacity for self-direction

How We Define Innovation

Innovation is the act of introducing something new or different to further an artist's vision and practice. This can mean new methods, applications, perspectives, elements, forms, materials and/or processes that result from study, experimentation or experiences. Innovation involves acting on creative ideas to make some specific and tangible difference. To read more about concepts that the arts council considers innovative, go to the Montana Arts Council's website <http://art.mt.gov/artists/artists_innovation.asp> and click on FAQs.

Award Rounds and Application Deadlines

Round One: 2009-2010 – up to ten awards of \$3,000 each will be distributed over two years (up to five awards per year).

Artists may apply only once per round. There are no restrictions on how this money is used. However, there is a post-award activity requirement (see the Award Expectation information below). Visual Arts Awards were granted in 2009. Literary and Performing Arts Awards will be granted in 2010.

For this application round, literary arts includes **poetry, prose, fiction, literary non-fiction, plays, screenplays, and work for children and/or young adults**. Performing artists include **musicians, dancers, actors, performance artists, filmmakers, directors, composers, conductors, choreographers** and **spoken word poets**.

Applicants whose work bridges both performing and literary arts must decide whether their work is primarily performance or literary in content or impact. Do not apply if you are a visual artist; this round is only for performing arts and literary arts.

Literary and Performing Arts: 2010

The application process for literary and performing arts awards is open for 2010. The deadline to apply ends at 5:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time, Friday, April 30, 2010.

If you do not have reasonable access to a computer or high speed connection, please contact Kristin Han Burgoyne (406) 444-6449 for assistance before Friday, April 16, 2010.

Criteria

- Artistic innovation and exceptional creativity in completed artworks or collaborations.
- Artistic excellence and professionalism.
- A plan for a simple, low-cost or no-cost activity to take place during the grant cycle (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011) that will convey the artist's innovative process and work to other Montanans (see Award Expectation below).
- A skillfully prepared online grant application. Only the information and artwork samples submitted in the application will be considered, so artwork samples should be high-quality and narrative answers should be articulate and complete.

Award Expectation

In order to promote the connection between the arts and innovation, applicants will be required to describe a simple, low-cost or no-cost activity to be conducted during the grant period (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011) that will convey the artist's innovative work and artwork (and convey MAC's sponsorship of the award) to other Montanans.

This activity can be a session to which the public – or a specific group of Montanans – is invited, or a local workshop, a reading or performance, a lecture or demonstration, etc. It could be an activity scheduled online, or at a school, a service organization or library, for instance, or as part of some ongoing series of events. The activity can involve other artists and/or organizations. Also, it can be something that was previously planned, as long as it takes place within the grant period.

What you will Need for the Application

Answers to a Narrative Section

Artists are asked to respond to the following in the online application:

Regarding your work and artwork (*maximum - 500 words per answer*):

1. Describe what innovations you have made in your art and/or your process.
2. Describe how the artwork samples you submitted illustrate the evolution of your work. (See Artwork Samples information below.)

Regarding public access to your work and artwork (*maximum - 100 words*):

3. Describe a low-cost or no-cost activity to take place during the grant period that will convey your innovative work and artistry to other Montanans.

Artwork Samples

Artwork samples should help illustrate your narrative responses. Literary and performing artists are encouraged to provide samples that illustrate the evolution of their artwork – early, middle, present and in-progress – demonstrating innovation in the process. (However, keep in mind that the award is ultimately based on finished artwork.) For those performing artists who do not have media samples of past works or works-in-progress, photos with descriptions can be submitted.

Literary Artists

Poets may submit **up to twelve (12) poems** that total a maximum of twelve pages. A page is the equivalent of an 8½" X 11" sheet of paper with 12 point or larger size type. Poems must be combined for upload as one PDF document.

Prose writers may submit **up to twenty-five (25) pages total** in any combination of literary samples. Samples must be combined for upload as one PDF document.

Artists combining genres (for example, combining poetry and prose) may submit **up to twenty-five (25) pages total** in any combination of literary samples. Samples must be combined for upload as one PDF document.

Performing Artists

Performing arts applicants may submit **a maximum of ten (10) minutes** of quality media (audio and/or visual) samples in any combination of **up to ten** clips total. Performing arts applicants can submit an individual photo as a sample of past work. Each photo must have a brief description inserted (see instructions in Online Guide) and the total of uploaded work samples in any format cannot exceed ten.

Technical information and specifications for all uploads are available at <https://slideroom.zendesk.com>.

Required Information

All applicants must submit a **headshot** in JPEG format and prepare an **artist's statement** and **bio/resume**. The artist's statement will need to be inserted in the online application form, and the bio/resume must be uploaded as a single PDF document. Applicants will also be required to provide information about each upload. (see instructions in the Online Guide)

Optional Support Material

Applicants may choose to submit **up to ten (10) additional pages of material** that supports the application. This can include press coverage, articles published about the work, critiques, letters of support, etc. Do not include additional artwork samples. Each item must be no more than one page in size and in PDF format.

Selection and Juries

The decision for selecting awardees is based on finished artwork. Only the information and artwork samples submitted in the application will be considered. Applicants will be identified by name and all information submitted is public information.

Juries are comprised of three to five arts professionals who have expertise in the arts disciplines under consideration and are selected by the members of the Montana Arts Council. Additional jurors may include legislators and/or Governor's staff. All jurors' decisions are **forwarded as recommendations**, and the final allocation of all awards will be made by the members of the Montana Arts Council.

Eligibility

Applications will be accepted from artists seriously pursuing their art career, whether they are emerging, mid-career or established artists, or a group of collaborating artists. However, high school students and degree-seeking college students (graduate or undergraduate) are not eligible to apply.

Artists who have received MAC fellowship awards in the past are eligible to apply for this award.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, a U.S. citizen, and a resident of Montana. (Residency requires having lived in Montana for at least one full year prior to the application deadline.)

Group applicants are eligible for only one award. Each individual artist within the group must consent to being part of the application, however, only one person should act as the lead applicant to fill out the application.

Artists may only apply once per round. Artists applying as part of a group are not eligible to also apply as individual artists.

Montana Arts Council staff or members of its current governing body, or anyone connected to them by one degree of relationship - by blood, marriage or shared household - are not eligible to apply for this award.

If Selected for an Award for Literary or Performing Arts, You Will:

- Be notified by June 30, 2010.
- Receive a **contract** and **final report form**. Sign and return the contract immediately, which also verifies your eligibility.
- Upon MAC's receipt and processing of your signed contract, **receive a check for \$2,500** (the remaining \$500 will be issued upon receipt of your final report).
- Provide your **photo, brief biography** (1/2 page) and **written permission to reproduce artwork images** for MAC to use for publicity and informational purposes within 14 days of the award notice.
(Re: submission of any images of children's faces associated with recognizable landmarks, you must provide all appropriate **photo rights and permissions**.)
- **Complete** and **return the final report** no later than June 30, 2011, and be issued a check for the remaining \$500.

Application and Fees

This grant application will be administered through **SlideRoom.com**, an electronic submissions system requiring a high-speed internet connection.

Before you begin, please read the Online Guide and FAQs (printable PDF files) on our website.

A \$10 processing fee must be paid at the time the application is submitted online. This can be done by credit or debit card. Applicants applying as a group pay only one fee per application, not per artist.

Reminders

- If you do not have reasonable access to a computer and/or high speed connection, please contact Kristin Han Burgoyne for assistance at (406-444-6449) before Friday, April 16, 2010.
- Give yourself plenty of time to begin your online application in case you need to access the site's technical services for assistance in converting or uploading files to your application. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE FINAL WEEK** to begin this online process.